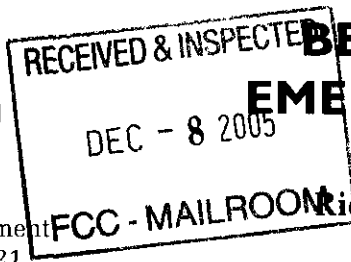




Emergency Management
Fax: (509) 628-2621



BENTON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

651 Truman Avenue
Richland, Washington 99352
(509) 628-2600



Southeast Communications Center
Fax: (509) 628-2622

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Re: WT Docket No. 05-286 – Sprint Nextel request for waiver of GPS handset penetration requirement

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Southeast Communications Center operating in Benton County Washington provides the citizens of our community with Enhanced 911 ("E911") services. The provision of emergency response in times of need is vital to our citizens. We commend the FCC for its efforts to help drive the implementation of wireless E911 location technology to help make our emergency response efforts more effective. We worked with Sprint and Nextel to implement wireless E911 services in our area to offer our citizens the benefits of wireless E911 location technology. We have been impressed by both companies' commitment to deploying this lifesaving technology, and are confident that the new Sprint Nextel will be as committed to public safety as Sprint and Nextel were individually.

Sprint and Nextel have kept us apprised of important developments affecting E911. For example, we were informed immediately of the software glitch that affected Nextel's GPS-enabled handsets in July 2004. Sprint Nextel has shown a commitment to keeping its E911 system available and running at all times. Sprint Nextel worked with us in rolling out E911 Phase II service, and they remain actively engaged in an ongoing relationship as they upgrade their network.

Sprint and Nextel, and the new Sprint Nextel, have been actively involved in the partnership between PSAPs and industry that is so critical to ensure timely and effective deployment of E911 Phase II service. Although Sprint Nextel has encountered difficulties in reaching the FCC's 95% handset deployment goal, from our point of view, it has made meaningful efforts to comply with the FCC's E911 deployment rules and guidelines.

As the FCC considers Sprint Nextel's current petition, we ask that the information provided above regarding its efforts to date is evidence of Sprint Nextel's coordination and cooperation with us on E911 deployment.

Very truly yours,

Norbert R. O'Donnell ENP
Communication Manager

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List A B C D E